

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-31 are currently pending in the application; Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 16, 21, and 23 having been amended, and new dependent Claims 28-31 having been added, by way of the present response. Applicants respectfully assert that support for the changes to the claims is self-evident from the originally filed disclosure, including the original claims, and that therefore no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action acknowledgment was made to a claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d); the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 10, 2004, was indicated as having been considered; the formal drawings were indicated as having been approved; a new title was required; and Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 21, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,131,008 to Kanamori et al. (Kanamori).

Initially, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that Claims 3, 6-20, and 23-27 recite allowable subject matter, such that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, Applicants have so-rewritten Claims 3, 6, 16, and 23. Applicants have further amended dependent Claim 8 to correct a minor typographical error. Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 7-15, 17-20, and 24-27 depend from the newly independent claims. Thus, in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of Claims 3, 6-20, and 23-27.

As stated above acknowledgment was made to a claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d). Applicants respectfully assert that priority has been claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) to a provisional application, however, rather than under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) to a

foreign application. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that the acknowledgement to a claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) in the Office Action Summary and on page 2 of the Office Action is understood to have been included in error.

Applicants express thanks for the Examiner's indications that the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 10, 2004, has been considered, and that the formal drawings have been approved.

As stated above a new title was required. In response, Applicants have amended the title to state "DEVELOPER CARTRIDGE INCLUDING RIM CONFIGURED TO OPEN AND TO CLOSE A SHUTTER OF AN IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS."

As stated above Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 21, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kanamori. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to developer cartridges (i.e., recited in independent Claim 1), as well as a method of replenishing a developer supply in an image forming apparatus (i.e., recited in independent Claim 21). As recited in independent Claim 1, a body member is configured to store a developer, the body member defining first and second open ends. A first flange member is disposed in the first open end. A second flange member is disposed in the second open end. A rim includes an extension of a periphery, the rim including a first face configured to open a shutter of an image forming apparatus and a second face configured to close the shutter of the image forming apparatus. Independent Claim 21 recites the method of replenishing the developer supply with a developer cartridge having a rim including an extension of a periphery, the rim including a first face adapted to open a shutter of the image forming apparatus and a second face adapted to close the shutter of the image forming apparatus. The method includes inserting the developer cartridge into

the image forming apparatus, and rotating the developer cartridge in a first direction such that the rim contacts a first portion of the shutter.

Kanamori is directed to a developer cartridge. As shown in Figures 11A, 11B, and 12, for example, of Kanamori, flange projections 13a1, 13a2, 14a1, and 14a2 of toner cartridge C are engaged with end portions of a shutter member 20 of a developing device, with the four corners of the shutter 20 being sandwiched by the projections. By doing so, the shutter member is integrally rotatable with the rotation of the toner cartridge C.¹

Applicants respectfully assert that Kanamori does not teach, or even render obvious, the claimed features of a rim including an extension of a periphery of a developer cartridge, with the rim configured or adapted to open and to close a shutter of an image forming apparatus, as recited in original and amended independent Claims 1 and 21. Rather, Applicants respectfully assert that Kanamori at most shows flange projections 13a1 and 14a1 opening the shutter, and flange projections 13a2 and 14a2 closing the shutter, rather than a rim configured to open and to close the shutter, for example.

Notwithstanding the above discussion, which Applicants respectfully assert provides sufficient and adequate grounds for the withdrawal of the rejection, and subsequent allowance, of independent Claims 1 and 21, Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 21 to emphasize differences between Applicants' invention and Kanamori.

Specifically, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 21 to recite a developer cartridge having a rim including an extension of a periphery, the rim including a first face configured to open a shutter of an image forming apparatus and a second face configured to close the shutter of the image forming apparatus. Applicants respectfully assert that the claimed features are not taught, or even rendered obvious, by Kanamori. Rather, as discussed above, Applicants respectfully assert that at most Kanamori shows flange

¹ Column 14, lines 44-51, of Kanamori.

projections 13a1 and 14a1 opening the shutter, and flange projections 13a2 and 14a2 closing the shutter, rather than a first face of a rim opening the shutter and a second face of the rim closing the shutter, for example.

Independent Claim 1 recites “a rim comprising an extension of a periphery, the rim comprising a first face configured to open a shutter of an image forming apparatus and a second face configured to close the shutter of the image forming apparatus,” and independent Claim 21 recites “a rim including an extension of a periphery, the rim including a first face adapted to open a shutter of the image forming apparatus and a second face adapted to close the shutter of the image forming apparatus.” It is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to disclose or render obvious the combined features set forth in Claims 1 and 21. In addition, it is believed the Office Action acknowledged the features of Claims 1 and 21 are allowable in view of the subject matter indicated as allowable in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of independent Claims 1 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and allowance of independent Claims 1 and 21.

Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 2, 4, 5, 22, and 28-31 are allowable for the same reasons as independent Claims 1 and 21, from which they depend, as well as for their own features. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of dependent Claims 2, 4, 5, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn, and the allowance of dependent Claims 2, 4, 5, 22, and 28-31.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-31 is earnestly solicited.

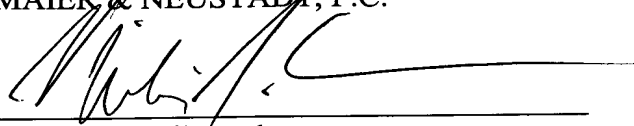
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Reply to Office Action of May 21, 2004

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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